



Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

— Making a positive difference through education and service —

TO: Board Presidents, Superintendents and Principals
FROM: Lisa Walters, Library Media and Technology Consultant
SUBJECT: Free Textbook Monies and Standards for Missouri School Library Media Centers
DATE: October 14, 2005

You will find information concerning two subjects in this document: Free Textbook monies and library collection standards. There are changes in the Free Textbook monies starting in the 2006-2007 school year and changes in the standards I will highlight for your information.

With the school-funding formula changing in 2006-2007, some categorical funds will no longer exist. One such category is the Free Textbook fund. In the past, this fund has been used to support library collections in many school districts. The money will continue to be sent to the school districts but it will not be ear-marked as Free Textbook. Instead this money will be built into the state adequacy target amount. Funding to support continued improvement of collections will need to be identified within the overall budget. The recommended expenditure for materials and supplies is \$73.94 per pupil. This is based on the state average per pupil expenditure.

The *Standards for Missouri School Library Media Centers* document has been reviewed and revised as the Department does every three years. Copies of the standards have been printed and mailed to each school building in the state for the first time since the initial standards were developed (1996). There are several changes I want to bring to your attention:

- 1) The superintendents on the review committee asked to have an explanation of how the five-year building collection plan is funded. In the document, there is a sample budget chart on page 3 I hope will be helpful. The specifics of the plan remain the same:
 - a. A five-year plan with a section(s) of the collection identified for improvement.
 - b. Identify funding sources to address the planned improvement.
 - c. Track annual growth in volumes and annual expenditures for the identified section(s). This information will be presented in documentation for the MSIP Review.
 - d. Funding of the plan is above and beyond the typical annual budget.
- 2) The time-sensitive areas of the nonfiction collection have been updated for the first time in ten years. The reason for time-sensitive areas remains the same. A chart of the sub-set (by grade grouping) may be found on page 12. I do not anticipate any changes for several years.

(over)

- a. A sub-set (not the same 11 areas as the past ten years) of the Dewey Decimal Classification Categories has been identified for each grade grouping as time-sensitive. In the past, the sub-set was the same for all grade groupings. With input from librarians throughout the state, this was adjusted to better fit the age group the collection serves.
 - b. The sub-set of the collection covers subjects which can become dated and inaccurate very quickly.
 - c. The recommendation (not requirement) that at least 70 percent of the resources in the sub-set have copyright dates within the most recent 12 years.
 - d. Some older resources in the sub-set retain their intellectual integrity for extensive periods of time and should **not** automatically be weeded based on copyright date.
- 3) The number of computer workstations available in the library media center has been connected to the number of electronic periodical titles which may be counted to meet the periodical standard.
- a. Electronically accessible periodicals may be counted as 70% of the required subscriptions. This is an increase from 50% which has been in place since 1996.
 - b. Workstations equal to or exceeding one-third of the average size classroom must be available in the library media center to count the electronic periodicals as 70% of the collection.
- 4) The collection quantity tables have been revised in some areas. I have been receiving comments for several years about quantity issues. These changes were made after studying quantities of collections for all 2,200 plus buildings for three years. I mapped each building quantities to Level 1, 2 or 3. An example of the reason quantities were changed is less than 20% of the high schools in the state had reached Level 1 in nonfiction. They must provide many electronic resources in addition to the print resources and many times the budget is not large enough to have both. To address the issues identified, some quantities were decreased and others were increased. In this particular example, high school nonfiction numbers were decreased. I do not anticipate another quantity change for several years.

I appreciate the support you provide to all of the students in Missouri through the library media centers and specialists in the state. We know through *Show Me Connection: How School Library Media Center Services Affect Student Achievement* (statewide research study) that strong library media programs have a positive relationship to student achievement as measured by the MAP tests. Library media centers with high usage, access to materials, and summer reading programs have building MAP scores up to 10.6 points higher than those who do not. To improve usage, access, and summer reading:

Usage: Library usage and its positive relationship to student achievement can best be achieved by:

- ensuring that school library media specialists have clerical help, and
- providing many varieties of print and online resources

Access: Library access and its positive relationship to student achievement can be accomplished by:

- designating a library/media coordinator to manage resource and information sharing
- providing many varieties of online resources including an online catalog

Summer Reading Program: A summer reading program's positive relationship to student achievement can best be achieved as a result of:

- encouraging an interest in reading,
- enhancing the act of reading, and
- lessening the effect of formal education being suspended for three months.

Please contact me with any questions you may have about the information in this correspondence. Thank you for your work to make education a good experience for Missouri children.